



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Public Information Office

David Madden, Manager • (415) 556-6177 • (415) 556-6179 fax • dmadden@ce9.uscourts.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Madden, (415) 556-6177

Senate Confirms Sandra S. Ikuta for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted to confirm President Bush's nomination of Sandra Segal Ikuta, a Los Angeles attorney who serves as general counsel to the California Resources Agency, as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The roll call vote in favor of confirmation was 81-0 with 19 senators not voting. Ms. Ikuta is expected to receive her commission shortly. She will fill a judgeship vacant since September 1, 2000, when Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning took senior status.

The White House announced the nomination of Ms. Ikuta on Feb. 8. The nomination was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 25.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ms. Ikuta, 51, to be deputy secretary and general counsel of the California Resources Agency in January 2004. The agency is responsible for environmental protection and management of the state's natural, historical and cultural resources, including water, forests, fish and game, state parks and waterways. The agency reports to 17 public boards and commissions.

Prior to her political appointment, Ms. Ikuta was associated with the Los Angeles office of O'Melveny & Myers. She joined the law firm in 1990 as an associate and became a partner in 1997. She specialized in environmental and natural resources law and co-chaired the firm's environmental practice group. She previously served as a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 1989-90, and Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1988-89.

Ms. Ikuta received her J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1988, and a Master of Science from Columbia University School of Journalism in 1978. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976.

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Office of the Circuit Executive

95 Seventh St. P.O. Box 193939 San Francisco CA 94119-3939

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has two vacancies. Since taking office in 2001, President Bush has filled six judgeships on the court.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts or state courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, plus the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For calendar year 2005, the court reported 16,101 appeals filed.

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